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President Says Scope of Job 'Rather Appalled' Successor

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—President Truman said today that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had been "rather appalled" in their conference Tuesday at the scope of information a President needed in order to make daily decisions that might affect all the people of the United States or of the world.

The President must know exactly the implications of his acts for as many as one and a half billion people, Mr. Truman said, and it is a "tremendous responsibility." He expressed these views in a closed meeting of about 400 Government officials and employees who are taking a training course given by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Invited to speak before the group by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, director of the agency, Mr. Truman stole away from the White House shortly after noon. Any announcement of the meeting was withheld because of the security restrictions of the intelligence agency. In mid-afternoon the text of his talk was released.

"I don't think anyone realizes the immensity of the problems that face a President of the United States," Mr. Truman said in his impromptu talk. "It was my privilege a few days ago to brief the General who is going to take over the office on the twentieth of January, and he was rather appalled at all that the President needs to know in order to reach decisions—even domestic decisions."

"He must know exactly what is implied by what he does. The President makes a decision every day that can affect anywhere from one hundred million to a billion and a half people. It is a tremendous responsibility."

Not Even Caesar or Napoleon

Mr. Truman went on to say that the office of President of the United States now carried power beyond parallel in history, more power than had been exerted by Genghis Kahn, Caesar, Napoleon, Louis XIV or any other such figure.

"That is the principal reason," the President continued, "why I am so anxious that it be a continuing proposition, and that the successor to me, and the successor to him, can carry on as if no election had ever taken place."

"That is the prospect that we are faced with now. I am giving this President—this new President—more information than any other President had when he went into office."

Mr. Truman paid a tribute to the personnel of the C. I. A., saying their global intelligence operations made it possible to keep a President informed better than ever before. He added that the Government could not be run without the agency now.

When he succeeded to the Presidency in 1945, Mr. Truman reminisced, no central intelligence organization existed and it was necessary to obtain information from the various Government departments whose information-gathering agencies were "walled off" from every other service.

"Whenever it was necessary for the President to have information," he continued, "he had to send to two or three departments to get it, and then he would have to have somebody do a little digging to get it."

"The affairs of the Presidential office, so far as information was concerned, were in such shape that it was necessary for me, when I took over the office, to read a stack of documents that high [gesturing], and it took me three months to get caught up."

When Mr. Truman gestured, his hand was about eighteen inches above the speaking stand, but he could have intended the stack to reach from the floor up. He habitually spends long night hours reading official reports. He gets a daily intelligence summary, as well as special intelligence studies, from General Smith's agency.

Only two persons around the White House at that time—Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, former Chief of Staff to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, and Admiral Wilson Brown, former naval aide to President Roosevelt—knew current military affairs, Mr. Truman said. He talked to them every morning, he added, and finally suggested to Admiral Leahy the formation of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"We have an intelligence information service now that I think is not inferior to any in the world," the President declared.

Truman Says General

Is 'Rather Appalled' at Immensity of New Job

By Joseph A. Fox

President-elect Eisenhower is "rather appalled" at the immensity of the task he faces, according to President Truman.

Stressing the importance of the presidency yesterday as he addressed a Central Intelligence Agency conference, Mr. Truman told of his Tuesday session with Gen. Eisenhower, when they talked over the problems facing the incoming holder of "the most powerful office" in the history of the world.

"I don't think any one realizes the immensity of the problems that face a President of the United States," Mr. Truman said.

"It was my privilege to brief the general, who is going to take over the office on the 20th day of January, and he was rather appalled at all that the President needs to know in order to reach decisions—even domestic decisions."

Millions Affected.

"He must know exactly what is implied by what he does. The President makes a decision every day that can affect anywhere from 100 million to 1.50 billion people. It is a tremendous responsibility."

The meeting was the final session of the CIA's eighth training orientation course for representatives of Government agencies. Several hundred were present as the President spoke at the Department of Agriculture Auditorium.

The session was closed, but the President's remarks later were made public by the White House.

Describing the modest start the CIA had at the outset of his administration, the President said, "We have an intelligence information service now that I think is not inferior to any in the world."

Intelligence Concentrated.

When he first came to the White House, Mr. Truman emphasized, every department or other organization had its own information service, and a President might have to cover two or three to get any data he wanted.

For his own part, he continued, he needed three months to get caught up on the stack of documents he had to read.

Admiral William D. Leahy, Presidential Chief of Staff, and Admiral Wilson Brown, naval aide, were the only ones around the White House who "really knew what was going on in the military affairs department," the President said, and he met them daily to get whatever information he could.

Finally, Mr. Truman continued, he suggested the formation of a central intelligence agency for the benefit of the whole Government, and the organization now headed by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith was formally launched.